

Applicant: Paola CAPODIECI, *et al.*

Application No. 10/624,233

Response/Amendment Dated May 18, 2005

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of April 20, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a mammalian cell-line and/or mammalian tissue sample for *in situ* hybridization, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) pressure cooking the sample in a decloaking chamber at a temperature of about 125 °C reaching a pressure of between about 20 to about 24 PSI; and
  - (b) treating the pressure cooked sample with ammonia-ethanol in a concentration of about 0.25% and sodium borohydride in a concentration of about 5%.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the sample is fixed-treated.
- 3-5 (Canceled).
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the fixed-treated sample is paraffin embedded.
- 7-8. (Canceled).
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 or 1 wherein the tissue or the cell is human.
10. (Currently Amended) A pressure cooked composition comprising:
  - (d) a fixed-treated tissue according to claim 1;
  - (e) ~~ammonia-ethanol~~; and
  - (f) ~~sodium borohydride~~.
11. (Original) The pressure cooked composition according to claim 10, wherein the fixed-treated tissue is paraffin embedded.
- 12-32. (Canceled).

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32-33. (New) A method for reducing autofluorescence when performing FISH on a fixed treated tissue sample, the method comprising

- (a) pressure cooking the sample in a decloaking chamber at a temperature of about 125 °C reaching a pressure of between about 20 to about 24 PSI; and
- (b) treating the pressure cooked sample with ammonia-ethanol in a concentration of about 0.25% and sodium borohydride in a concentration of about 5%.

wherein both steps are performed on the sample prior to performing FISH.